

**Newsletter**  
**Southeastern Game Bird Breeders & Hunting**  
**Preserve Association**  
No. 5, May 2021

**Dues are Due**

**Membership Application**  
**New/Renewal Member Information (Please Circle One)**  
**Or Change of Address/Information Form (Please Circle)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm/Preserve Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

**Check all that are applicable: This is information for the next directory**

Producer (P)	Hunting Preserve Operator (HPO)
Kennel Operator (KO)	Sporting Clays/Skeet Operator (SC)
Supplies/Equipment (SE)	Consultant (C)
Education (E)	Diagnostic Lab/Regulatory (DLR)
Other _____	

**Types of Birds Raised:**

Bobwhite Quail (Q)	Chukar (CH)	Hungarian Partridge (H)	
Mallards (M)	Pheasant (PH)	Wild Turkey (T)	Japanese quail (J)
Other _____			

*If you paid your dues at our recent meeting, please ignore this request.*  
Please enclose a check for \$35 payable to the SEGB&HPA and mail to:

Dr. Gary S. Davis  
2627 Hitchcock Dr.

Durham, NC 27705

Email: [gpdavis@centurylink.net](mailto:gpdavis@centurylink.net) or [gsdavis@ncsu.edu](mailto:gsdavis@ncsu.edu)

Website: <http://segamebirds.us>

**A New or Current Member Can Join or Renew with a Credit Card on Our Website, Log on and Click the Membership Navigation Tab.**

I hereby pay \$35 and make application for membership to the SEGB&HPA. The objective of the Association shall be to foster, promote, and protect the game breeder and hunting preserve operator, its allied businesses and activities and to promote and assist in the re-establishment of game. I agree to abide by the Constitution, By-Laws, and Code of Ethics of the SEGB&HPA, and to further the interests of the Association whenever possible.

### **2021 Short Course & Meeting**

Our 2021 Short Course was a success and very nice. Twenty-five folks braved the pandemic and attended our meeting at the Georgia Poultry Lab in Gainesville, GA. The facilities were fantastic and the talks were educational and informative. Our tentative 2022 Short Course is scheduled for April 29 at the GA Poultry Lab.

### **GA, NC, and SC to Hold State Fairs in October**

MACON, Ga. — Georgians across the state are cheering as they hear that the Sunbelt Ag Expo and Georgia National Fair are making plans to hold their annual shows this year. Both shows were canceled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2021 Georgia National Fair is scheduled for Oct. 7-17 at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry, the fair announced March 2 on its Facebook page. Sunbelt Ag Expo officials confirmed April 14 that plans are underway to hold the 2021 Sunbelt Expo Oct. 19-21 at Spence Field in Moultrie.

“As people continue to get their COVID vaccines and as long as people use common sense in abiding by CDC protocols, we’re ready to move forward in October with a great in-person show. Our exhibitors and attendees are ready for an in-person show,” Sunbelt Expo Executive Director Chip Blalock said.

“Sunbelt Expo will abide by whatever COVID protocols are in place in October to protect our exhibitors and visitors’ health. We’re excited to be planning for a show that we’re pretty sure is going to happen as opposed to last year when we didn’t know how the pandemic would affect us.”

Attendance at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Georgia National Fair in 2019 totaled 565,533 over the event’s 11-day run. The 2019 event set a new overall attendance record

for the fair, which was a 5% increase over the previous record of 536,840 attendees in 2016. The 2019 Georgia National Fair also set a single-day attendance record on Oct. 12, 2019, with 96,910 visitors.

The fair strives to make each year's experience new for visitors by adding new attractions or shows. The Georgia Grown Birthing Barn – where fair goers can watch live births of dairy calves and see newborn piglets nursing their mothers – has been a big hit since 2018.

Sunbelt Expo, long called “North America's Premier Farm Show” every year attracts more than 1,200 exhibitors, who display the newest farm equipment and ag products on 100 acres of exhibit space. The 44-year-old event draws attendees from across the U.S., and an Expo Farmer of the Year is selected each year from 10 Southeastern states ranging from Arkansas to Louisiana over to Virginia and down to Florida.

#### May Days on the Midway

If you can't wait until October to get your fair fix, make plans to attend the May Days on the Midway the Georgia National Fairgrounds is holding Thursday, May 20 – Monday, May 31. This event will offer attendees all of the best carnival rides, games and food usually found on the Georgia National Fair Midway. Admission and parking will be FREE to everyone.

The Georgia National Fair is taking pre-orders for ride armband sales until 4 p.m. May 7, Mondays through Fridays only from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. No orders will be taken after 4 p.m. on May 7. Pre-ordered ride armbands cost \$25 – a \$5 savings if purchased armbands are used on weekends or on Memorial Day.

Armband vouchers will be redeemed on the carnival midway on whichever day visitors choose to go. Armbands allow wearers to ride all rides as many times as they would like for the day the armband was purchased.

Pre-orders for ride armbands will only be taken over the phone. CREDIT/DEBIT CARD purchases only! NO REFUNDS or EXCHANGES will be allowed or granted once pre-ordered armbands are purchased. No rainy-day refunds allowed. All pre-orders will be mailed to the purchaser once order has been made and payment received. NO PICK UP or WILL CALL will be allowed. Call 478-988-6483 or 478-988-6484 to buy pre-order armbands.

May Midway attendees may buy individual ride tickets the day they attend.

#### Expo Field Day set for July

Sunbelt Expo will hold its 2021 Expo Field Day on July 22 beginning at 8 a.m. The drive-thru format Expo held last year was such a success that Expo plans to use this format again this year, Blalock said. More details will be announced soon on Sunbelt Ag Expo's social media platforms and website <https://sunbeltexpo.com>. Georgia Farm Bureau

## Our Litter and Manure Has Value

MADISON, Wis. — Each year, American farmers raise billions of chickens and millions of game birds, more than enough for a “chicken for every pot,” as Herbert Hoover’s campaign once promised.

But all those birds mean a lot of something else: manure. Poultry litter is the mix of manure and bedding materials coming from the poultry industry. Farms produce millions of tons each year.

Like other animal wastes, poultry litter is a natural choice as farm fertilizer.

Although it’s widely used, there’s still a lot we don’t know about how — and if — poultry litter helps crops.

In new research, scientists in Mississippi tested just that. They looked at how applying poultry litter to fields over several years would affect the soil and crops grown afterward. The work was recently published in Soil Science Society of America Journal.

“Our goals were to develop sustainable management practices and guide farmers to increase row crop production while keeping nutrients in the field and improving soil health,” says Gary Feng, member of the Soil Science Society of America and lead author of the new study.

Farmers often come to Feng and his colleagues asking how to best use poultry litter. So the team has been researching the best answers.

On Mississippi State University test fields, they came up with three fertilizer treatments. In one, they would apply poultry litter. In another, they would use commercial chemical fertilizers. The control treatment received no nutrients. After five years of these treatments, they planted soybeans for three years and measured how well they grew. The scientists also tested the soil, which has a big effect on crops.

Feng’s group found poultry litter has a significant impact on the soil. The soil that received poultry litter was less compacted. Soil compaction is a common problem that can reduce how well water moves through the ground.

The soils with poultry litter also had the ability to hold a lot more water, and they allowed water to soak into the ground quicker.

The upshot was that soil receiving poultry litter could save farmers about one watering event a season. That means money saved.

“In other words, the soil could let more rainwater get into soil and hold more rainwater for rain-fed crops to use when the field is dry or save irrigation costs for irrigated land,” says Feng.

Another important component of soil is how much carbon it holds on to. Carbon-based organic matter usually improves soil.

Although the poultry litter added a lot of carbon over the years, that carbon tended to evaporate as carbon dioxide in the hot and humid region. So at the end of the experiment, the soil carbon didn't change a lot.

Because carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas, tracking soil carbon also gave the scientists insight into greenhouse emissions.

"Our results overall provide bases for developing guidelines for greenhouse gas emission predictions and for more realistic expectations of soil carbon improvement from applying poultry litter," says Feng.

Soybeans planted in the fields grew better in the years after poultry litter was added to the soil. One year later, soybean yields were 8% higher. And three years later, yields got even better. They were 11% higher than in fields that received synthetic fertilizers.

"Left over nutrients from litter in the previous consecutive application can maintain higher soybean yield for three more years after stopping litter application," says Feng.

Because a large portion of poultry production takes place in the Southeast U.S., this research on local crops and soils is especially valuable to farmers in the region.

"These results are useful for development of management practices that improve soil health and function," says Feng.

These findings could be helpful to crop farmers deciding how to fertilize their fields. And poultry farmers can get a clearer picture of the value of the litter they produce.

Gary Feng is a soil scientist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This research was supported by the Mississippi Soybean Promotion Board.

—American Society of Agronomy,  
Soil Science Society of America,  
Crop Science Society of America

## **10 Self-Care Tips to Help Eliminate Stress**

*Progressive Agriculture Safety Day presents their May 2021 Safety Day Corner*

PUBLISHED ON May 3, 2021

Being a Physiologist, I once had a Physiology professor say during a lecture on stress physiology in poultry, "**Life without stress is death. There's good stress and bad stress.**"

WASHINGTON — It is a perfect time of year to focus on the importance of self-care with the observance of May as Mental Health Awareness Month. Self-care is essential to maintaining a healthy relationship with ourselves. This means

being proactive to take care of our minds, bodies, and souls by engaging in activities that promote well-being and reduce stress. Engaging in self-care is not a selfish act, but rather a way to remind ourselves and others that our needs are valid and a priority.

Self-care can be simpler than it sounds and can be practiced by doing something you enjoy, but do not always make time for. This may include listening to a podcast or music, reading a book, watching a movie, or assembling a puzzle. Here are a few self-care practices to help eliminate stress and strengthen your mental well-being:

**Adopt better sleep habits:** Prepare yourself for a restful night's sleep by securing a comfortable environment. Turn off electronics, lights, and other distractions that may stimulate the brain.

**Begin an exercise regimen:** Start with small changes by opting to take the stairs, if able, instead of the elevator. Take stretch breaks during the day. Go on a walk or a bike ride.

**Find a hobby:** Don't be afraid to try something new or do something you enjoy. **Take a social media break:** Put down the tablet, smartphone, step away from the computer for a block of time.

**Utilize stress management techniques:** Try yoga, meditation, or breathing exercises.

**Get organized:** Use a planner to set goals for yourself. You will feel a sense of accomplishment crossing things off your list!

**Keep a journal:** Instead of dwelling over negative thoughts, put them down on paper. Then "close the book on them" and enjoy your day.

**Volunteer:** It feels good to help a friend or give back to your community, as well as a great way to connect and cultivate relationships.

**Strengthen your communication skills:** Make connections by reaching out and talking to someone, as well as be a good listener.

**Treat yourself, as well as others, with respect:** Remember, we are all human, we make mistakes, and we miss goals, but maintaining a positive outlook is key.

Self-care is an important practice to adults and children alike, as they both can feel stress. And in response, the Progressive Agriculture Foundation® recently developed curriculum for its Progressive Agriculture Safety Day® program focusing on mental well-being and stress management for youth. The newly developed curriculum includes eight hands-on activities and demonstrations to assist children in understanding stress and their emotions, help them learn to adopt coping strategies, and share resources to ensure conversations continue at home.

This new mental well-being and stress management curriculum and resources were made possible through initial funding support from Farm Credit, a 4-star

partner of the Foundation. Additional support for the development of this curriculum was made possible through grant projects with the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health, and the University of Illinois North Central Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Center (funded by USDA-NIFA 2020-70028-32728).

## **Secretary's Corner - On the Brighter Side** **Here's to Mother's**

Happy Mothers Day! I thought it would be nice to consider some of the most important lessons that our mothers have taught us over my 73 years.

Here you go, Moms! This is just my shortlist.

The most important lessons I have learned from my mother:

1. Never take “no” for an answer; just find another way.
2. Ask questions, “Oh sir, sir...” even if it does embarrass your three daughters!
3. Change is good; it's embraced here!
4. Get to work!
5. The importance of being a good listener.
6. It's okay to pay for an empty box of peeps at the checkout line.
7. A smile goes a long way.
8. Please and thank you for everything!
9. Always leave your gas tank empty — right, dad? LOL
10. Strategy and patience
11. Not to make your bad day everybody else's problem.
12. Plant flowers and you will be HAPPY.

But I have to say, probably the most valuable thing my mother has taught me over the years is that being a good parent is THE most crucial job in the world.

You must show up every day and *lead*. ***Lead, lead, and lead some more.***

My mother was always the mother duck, and I was her duckling. I followed, because she *led the way*.

Thank you Moms, We love you so much!

### **Happy Hunting**

Dr. Gary S. Davis

Exec. Sec., SEGB&HPA

Website: [www.segamebirds.us](http://www.segamebirds.us)

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